



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds – ‘ORANGEFEST’
Date:	24 May 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	George Wright – Head of Facilities Management, Ext: 5206/6232

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that requests for the use of the City Hall grounds are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Property and Projects, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.
1.2	Members will recall that, in 2012, an ‘Orangefest’ event organised jointly with Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC), Belfast City-Centre Management (BCCM) and Taste of Ulster was approved by the Committee and took place in the grounds of the City Hall on 12 th July 2012. The event was part-funded by the Tourism, Culture & Arts Unit through the City of Festivals theme under the Peace III initiative, and was envisaged to run in both 2012 and 2013. Overall Peace III funding is due to end in December 2013.
1.3	A request has recently been received for a similar event on Friday 12th July 2013 from 11am to 5pm. The proposed event would involve “a mini-market, catering demonstrations in marquees [and a] small open-air children’s entertainments programme” and the organisers’ estimate of attendance is 3,000 to 5,000 people. BCCM are taking the lead in terms of event organisation and management. The event would take place on the front lawns only and consequently areas such as the Titanic garden and Cenotaph would remain open to the public.
1.4	The organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan etc. The organisers have requested that they have access to electricity and water services as was granted in 2012.
1.5	As with the 2012 event the organisers’ stated intentions are both to widen the appeal of the traditional Twelfth celebrations by attracting a more family-oriented and diverse audience and, secondly, to maximise the commercial opportunities for the city-centre presented by the presence of thousands of onlookers in the area.
1.6	Members will also be aware that for many years the Orange Order has been facilitated in using the Cenotaph for a short, commemorative ceremony, following which participants re-join the main parade, and this would be the case again in 2013.

1.7	This event is very similar in scale, scope, purpose and layout to the 2012 event, and the approval of the Committee is therefore sought in relation to this request.
1.8	Members will also recall that it was agreed that the Orangefest event would be marked on the relevant day by the use of the new LED lighting system to colour-wash the building in orange and purple.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The key issue is whether the Committee is minded to approve this request again in 2013. Last year's event was characterised by the organisers as a "huge success" and from the council's perspective it passed off without any logistical or other difficulties.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There would be no staffing implications for the council as all stewarding staff would be the responsibility of the organisers. Event insurance and appropriate indemnities will be required in respect of damage to council property or lawns etc, and there would be a very minimal cost in terms of the provision of electricity and water on the day.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The relevant equality and good relations implications have been taken into consideration and a completed screening form has been forwarded to the Equality and Diversity Officer in respect of this request.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the request as outlined above by the Orangefest organisers in respect of the proposed event on 12 th July 2013.

6	Decision Tracking

7	Key to Abbreviations
None.	

8	Documents Attached
None.	